

REMARKS

Claims 3, 8 through 14, and 16 are hereby cancelled and, thus, claims 1, 2, 4 through 7, 15, and 17 through 19 remain. Also, claims 1, 4, 15 and 17 are hereby amended.

Claims 1, 2, 5 through 10, 12, 13, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 7146312 (Demetrescu) and in view of US 2003/0081592 (Krishnarajah). Claims 11, 14, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Demetrescu in view of Krishnarajah and US 6625226 (Gersho). Further, claims, 3, 4, 16, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Independent claims 1 and 15 are hereby amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 3 and 16, and claims 4 and 17 are hereby amended in independent form to include all limitations of their respective base claims. Therefore, claims 1, 4, 15 and 17 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2, 5 through 7, 18, and 19 depend from, and include all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 15 as amended. Therefore, claims 2, 5 through 7, 18, and 19 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above for claims 1 and 15.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4 through 7, 15, and 17 through 19 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any

questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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